

Malaysia Should Take Pride In Ability To Showcase A Contemporary Nation To Obama

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KUALA LUMPUR, May 12 (Bernama) -- Malaysia should take pride as it could showcase an image of a progressive contemporary country to United States President Barack Obama during his visit here last month.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said Obama's visit was a stark contrast from the first visit here 48 years ago by an American president in the person of President Lyndon B. Johnson, who was 'treated' to a view of rubber estates.

"Befitting our country's position at that time, which has just achieved independence for a decade. In conjunction with that visit, we have named one of the FELDA settlements as FELDA L.B. Johnson in Negeri Sembilan.

"We can afford to be proud because we could showcase to President Obama a contemporary Malaysia that has progressed and transformed with its skyscrapers," he said when launching the annual report of National Transformation Programme (NTP) and Economic Transformation Programme (ETP) in Wisma Angkasapuri here tonight.

He also referred to the recreational site at one of the latest innovation hubs in Malaysia, the Malaysian Global Innovation and Creativity Centre or Magic in Cyberjaya, which was named as Obama Oval or O2 in conjunction with the historic visit.

Najib said after almost six decades of independence, Malaysia as a nation state had come a long way from an agricultural to a modern industrialised country before heading towards a high income developed country.

"As a continuation of Malaysia's success story for decades, this government continues with the economic transformation programmes through ETP," he said.

Obama, the 44th American president, was in Malaysia for a three-day official visit starting from last April 26.

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